Message Text

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LIMDIS

CODEL SCOTT

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, AF, US

SUBJECT: SENATOR SCOTT'S CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT DAOUD

- 1. THERE FOLLOW THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NOVEMBER 14 CONVERSATION BETWEEN SENATOR SCOTT OF VIRGINIA AND PRESIDENT DAOUD. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER GHAUS WAS ALSO PRESENT, IN ADDITION TO MYSELF. DAOUD APPEARED IN GOOD HEALTH AND RELAXED.
- 2. SENATOR SCOTT MENTIONED HIS HOPE THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT AFGHANISTAN'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. DAOUD SAID THIS IS, OF COURSE, COMPLETELY UP TO THE UNITED STATES, WHILE INDICATING APPRECIATION FOR PAST AND PRESENT ASSISTANCE.
- 3. THE SENATOR REFERRED TO LONGSTANDING RUSSIAN DESIRES TO HAVE A WARM-WATER PORT ON THE INDIAN OCEAN. HE SAID THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN A STRONG DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT, INCLUDING A NAVY, TO KEEP OCEAN COMMERCE FREE. HE CONFIDENTIAL

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INDICATED THE UNITED STATES WANTS PEACE AND OPPOSES AGRESSION ANYWHERE. DAOUD RESPONDED THAT HE, TOO, HAD HEARD OF CZARIST INTEREST IN A WARM-WATER PORT, AN INTEREST WHICH HAD BEEN REITERATED LATER AS WELL. HE SAID THAT SUCH AN AMBITION COULD NOT BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT FIRST TRAMPLING AFGHANISTAN, AND THAT HE WAS PLEASED THAT THE UNITED STATES IS MAINTAINING A STRONG DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT, NOT ONLY TO DEFEND THE UNITED

STATES BUT ALSO WITH THE INTERESTS OF SMALL NATIONS IN MIND.

4. SENATOR SCOTT REFERRED TO FRUSTRATION FELT BY SOME AMERICANS ABOUT VOTES IN THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORA, WHILE MAKING CLEAR HE WAS NOT CRITICIZING AFGHANISTAN IN THIS CONNECTION. DAOUD SAID AFGHANISTAN MUST VOTE WITH ITS NONALIGNED, THIRD-WORLD AND MUSLIM FRIENDS, AND URGED THAT THE UNITED STATES CONTINUE TO PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE, BEFITTING A GREAT POWER, IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

5. SENATOR SCOTT SAID HE IS CONVINCED THAT THERE WOULD BE A MORE SYMPATHETIC ATTITUDE TOWARD AFGHANISTAN IN THE UNITED STATES WERE AFGHANISTAN ABLE TO GIVE US MORE HELP WITH THE PROBLEM OF NARCOTICS. DAOUD REPLIED BY MENTIONING EFFORTS ALREADY UNDERWAY THROUGH THE JOINT AFGHAN-US-UN COMMISSION WHICH HAS RECENTLY BEEN ESTABLISHED AND EXPRESSED THE SINCERE DETERMINATION OF HIS GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE TO WORK HARD TO OVERCOME THIS EXCEEDINGLY DIFFICULT PROBLEM. HE ADDED THAT HE ASSUMED THE SENATOR IS AWARE THAT AFGHANISTAN IS NOT THE ONLY COUNTRY IN WHICH POPPIES ARE GROWN.

6. SENATOR SCOTT SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE PRESIDENT MIGHT SOON BE VISITING THE UNITED STATES AND HOPED HE WOULD BE ABLE TO VISIT WITH THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE WHILE IN WASHINGTON. DAOUD SAID THAT THAT WOULD BE A PLEASURE FOR HIM, IF HIS SCHEDULE WOULD PERMIT. CONFIDENTIAL

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7. SENATOR SCOTT HAS SEEN AND CLEARED THIS MESSAGE. ELIOT

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Message Attributes

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